

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 710

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Opal Bohannon upon being named "World's Grand Champion Down-Home Beef Stew Chef" at the Music and Molasses Festival beef stew competition.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those exceptional chefs whose culinary creations have attained an unparalleled level of gastronomic excellence; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable cook is Opal Bohannon, who was named "World's Grand Champion Down-Home Beef Stew Chef" at the Music and Molasses Festival beef stew cook-off held on October 20, 2007, in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bohannon edged out four other beef stew finalists during an afternoon of fierce beef stew cooking and, while each finalist prepared distinctive and excellent dishes, the judges ultimately selected Opal Bohannon as the champion; and

WHEREAS, the judges were impressed by the "down-home flavor" of her classic country dish, reminding them of how a beef stew is "supposed to taste;" and

WHEREAS, a native of Cookeville, Mrs. Bohannon, was the eldest girl of ten children and learned to cook by helping her mother in the kitchen; she is especially fond of her beef stew recipe, which has been a dinnertime staple in her family for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and *Tennessee Home & Farm Magazine*, the beef stew competition arose from a column written by editor Pettus Read, who called for an end to beef stew imitations; the perfect beef stew, he wrote, must have lots of beef, be cooked in cast iron, and taste good enough to impress this "self-proclaimed connoisseur" and

WHEREAS, the runners-up, all Tennessee residents and Tennessee Farm Bureau members, were Paula Hope, Linda Valentine, Betty Griffin, and Freda Forsythe; their recipes,

along with Mrs. Bohannon's prize-winner, will be featured in the Winter 2008 issue of *Tennessee Home & Farm Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eighty, Opal Bohannon remains an avid gardener who continues to can tomatoes and make her own tomato juice, which she claims is the secret ingredient in her prize-winning beef stew; and

WHEREAS, the newly-crowned "World's Grand Champion Down-Home Beef Stew Chef" regularly prepares her blue-ribbon stew for grateful friends and neighbors and church potluck dinner guests, serving it with cornbread or cheese and crackers; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Bohannon for her dedication to the culinary arts and for her commitment to exceptional Tennessee cooking; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Opal Bohannon upon being named the "World's Grand Champion Down-Home Beef Stew Chef" at the Music and Molasses Festival beef stew competition, applaud her dedication to a Southern tradition, and offer our sincere hopes for her every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.